

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 SS-15 L-03 NSC-05 SP-02 H-02

CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

FAA-00 /054 W

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P 211155Z JUL 75

FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3493

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: EAIR, AF, US

SUBJ: PANAM/ARIANARELATIONS

FOR NEA/PAB CONSTABLE/SCHIFFERDECKER FROM CURRAN

REF: KABUL 4498

1. AMBASSADOR CALLED ON MINFINANCE ABDOLELLAH ON JULY 20 TO ASCERTAIN (A) POSITION OF AFGHAN GOVERNMENT RE ARIANA-PANAM AUDIT PROBLEMS DESCRIBED REFTTEL; AND (B) TO REGISTER US CONCERN OVER POTENTIALLY ADVERSE EFFECT UNRESOLVED DISPUTE MIGHT HAVE ON PRIVATE INVESTMENT CLIMATE AND US-AFGHAN RELATIONS IN GENERAL.

2. AMBASSADOR NOTED THAT LONGSTANDING PANAM RELATIONSHIP WITH ARIANA REPRESENTS LARGEST US PRIVATE INVESTMENT IN AFGHANISTAN IS SYMBOLIC OF BENEFICIAL ROLE WE FEEL PRIVATE INVESTMENT CAN PLAY IN AFGHAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT. HE ALSO STRESSED THAT THE EMBASSY HAD ABSOLUTELY NO INTENTION OF BECOMING DIRECTLY INVOLVED IN DETAILS OF PRESENT AUDIT OF ARIANA UNLESS IT BECAME EVIDENT THAT AUDIT PART OF A CAMPAIGN WHICH WAS DIRECTED AT LEGITIMATE US COMMERCIAL INTERESTS IN AFGHANISTAN.

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3. IN HIS REPLY, ABDULLAH STRESSED THAT GOA ALSO VIEWS

PANAM-ARIANA PARTNERSHIP AS DESIRABLE AND BENEFICIAL AND WANTS THE RELATIONSHIP TO CONTINUE. THE MINISTER STATED THAT AN AUDIT OF ARIANA OPERATIONS BY THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE HAD UNCOVERED SERIOUS BOOKKEEPING DEFICIENCIES AND MISAPPROPRIATION OF FUNDS, BUT THESE WERE "TECHNICAL PROBLEMS" WHICH COULD BE SOLVED AND WOULD NOT DAMAGE THE PARTNERSHIP ITSELF. ABDULELLAH DESCRIBED SITUATION NOW AS "STABLE" WITH LOCAL PANAM REP (BENNETT) AND ARIANA REP MALIKYAR) ACTING AS CO-CONTROLLERS. HE FORESAW MATTER WOULD BE AMICABLY RESOLVED WITH PANAM TEAM WHICH IS EXPECTED IN KABUL EARLY AUGUST.

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH LOCAL REP BENNETT BRIEFED ON ABOVE CONVERSATION, DEPARTMENT MAY WISH TO PASS SUBSTANCE THIS MESSAGE TO PANAM IN NEW YORK. AT THIS JUNCTURE SITUATION DOES NOT APPEAR TO US TO BE OUT OF CONTROL.

5. FYI: BENNETT DOES NOT AGREE WITH OUR ASSESSMENT IN PARA 4 AND PLANS TO SEND A MESSAGE TO HIS BOSSES IN PANAM USING EMBASSY CIRCUITS LATER TODAY.  
ELIOT

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DISPUTES, AIRLINES, AVIATION REGULATIONS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 21 JUL 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** SmithRJ  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
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**TAGS:** EAIR, AF, US, ARIANA, PANAM  
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